

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 L-03 AF-06 ARA-10

EA-10 NEA-10 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 DODE-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4870

INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 2130

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UNCLAS GENEVA 5871

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, ECOSOC, EGEN

SUBJECT: 59TH ECOSOC: ITEM NO. 20, ASSISTANCE IN DISASTERS
(UNDRO)

1. DRAFT RESOLUTION QUOTED BELOW HAS BEEN CIRCULATED INFORMALLY BY PERUVIANS TODAY AND IS LIKELY TO APPEAR TOMORROW AS A FORMAL PROPOSAL. IT APPARENTLY HAS WIDE G-77 SUPPORT.

2. THE RECOMMENDATION TO UNGA TO ESTABLISH A NEW VOLUNTARY FUND IS PRESUMABLY IN RESPONSE TO UNDRO COORDINATOR BERKOL'S REQUEST CONTAINED IN PARAS 12 AND 13 OF UNDRO REPORT (DOCUMENT A/10079 OF MAY 6, 1975), AS FURTHER REFINED IN BERKOL'S STATEMENT IN PPCC TODAY. BERKOL MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT PROPOSING A MASSIVE CENTRAL UNDRO FUND TO CONVERT UNDRO INTO A MAJOR DONOR, BUT THAT HE WISHED THIS SUGGESTED FUND TO INCORPORATE (1) THE PRESENT \$200,000 (WITH INFLATIONARY INCREASE) NOW CONTAINED IN REGULAR BUDGET FOR PURPOSES OF SMALL, QUICK DONATIONS (UP TO \$20,000 FOR EACH
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DISASTER) PENDING MAJOR DONATIONS FROM OTHER SOURCES;

AND, (2) FUNDS FOR PROGRAM EXPENSES IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PRE-DISASTER PLANNING AND DISASTER PREVENTION, WHICH AMOUNT TO \$60,000 FOR 1975, DRAWN FROM WORKING CAPITAL FUND, BUT WHICH BERKOL RECOMMENDS BE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED, COMMENSURATE WITH UNDRO'S INCREASED CAPACITY PROVIDED UNDER PRESENT TRUST FUND FOR STRENGTHENING UNDRO. BERKOL POINTED OUT THAT AUTHORIZATION TO DRAW ON WORKING CAPITAL FUND EXPIRES THE END OF THIS YEAR AND THAT UNDP DID NOT SEEM TO PROVIDE HOPEFUL SOURCE SINCE COUNTRY FUNDS ARE PROGRAMMED. REFERENCE ALSO MADE TO ACABQ REPORT (DOCUMENT A/9608/AD.6 OF OCTOBER 10, 1974) AGREEING WITH SECGEN THAT HE EXPLORE FURTHER THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE RATHER THAN PROVIDING SUCH FUNDS FROM REGULAR BUDGET.

3. US DEL HAS CONSULTED OTHER MAJOR DONORS TO PRESENT TRUST FUND, NAMELY, UK, NETHERLANDS, DENMARK (SPEAKING ALSO FOR OTHER SCANDANAVIANS) AND NORWAY, ALL OF WHOM ARE REQUESTING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ON BERKOL'S REQUEST AND PERUVIAN RESOLUTION, BUT ALL OF WHOM ARE AT LEAST INITIALLY NEGATIVE ON THE IDEA OF A NEW VOLUNTARY FUND.

4. US POSITION PAPER (UNEC D 593/75 REV 1) OPPOSES THE CREATION OF A NEW FUND THAT WOULD MAKE UNDRO ANOTHER MAJOR DONOR, BUT DOES NOT COVER BERKOL'S PROPOSAL AS REFINED IN HIS STATEMENT. PENDING FURTHER CONSULTATIONS, OUR OWN VIEW IS THAT WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ARRIVE AT FORMULA THAT WOULD ASK FOR FURTHER STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF FINANCING THE TWO REQUIREMENTS IN QUESTION, ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT PERUVIANS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS WOULD AGREE. THEREFORE, WE SUGGEST AS FALLBACK THAT DEPT CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A SEGREGATED AMOUNT IN THE PRESENT TRUST FUND TO MEET ONE OR BOTH OF THESE REQUIREMENTS, PARTICULARLY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PRE-DISASTER PLANNING AND DISASTER PREVENTION. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS SOONEST SO THAT WE MAY CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS TOMORROW, JULY 24.

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5. QUOTE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

RECALLING GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 2816 (XXVI) OF 14 DECEMBER 1971 AND 3243 (XXIX) OF 29 NOVEMBER 1974 CONCERNING THE CREATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ITS RESOLUTIONS 1533 (XLIX) OF 28 JULY 1970
IN WHICH IT RECOMMENDED THE STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS
TO ESTABLISH AN EMERGENCY FUND FOR DISASTERS, TO BE MADE UP OF
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS BY ALL STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS
AND MEMBERS OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES; AND 1891 (LVII) OF 31
JULY 1974 ON ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF NATURAL DISASTER AND OTHER
DISASTER SITUATIONS,

RECALLING IN PARTICULAR GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3152 (XXVIII)
OF 14 DECEMBER 1973 AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AS AN
INTERIM MEASURE, TO DRAW ON THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND FOR TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT AND MEET NATURAL DISASTERS UP TO 1975,

NOTING THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE OFFICE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR (A/10079), AND
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CO-ORDINATOR WITH RESPECT TO NATURAL DISASTERS,

NOTING WITH CONCERN PARAGRAPHS 12 AND 13 OF THAT REPORT, IN WHICH
REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE LACK OF FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE CO-
ORDINATOR'S OFFICE FROM 1976 ONWARDS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
TO COUNTRIES STRICKEN BY DISASTERS AND FOR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION
TO PREVENT AND PREPARE FOR DISASTERS,

FURTHER NOTING PARAGRAPH 22 OF THE REPORT CONCERNING THE POSSIBI-
LITY OF FORECASTING WITH A FAIR DEGREE OF ACCURACY WHERE A DISASTER
IS LIKELY TO OCCUR,

AWARE THAT AFTER STRENGTHENING OF THE OFFICE OF THE DISASTER RELIEF
CO-ORDINATOR, THE LATTER SHOULD BE GIVEN THE REQUISITE MEANS
TO TAKE MORE EFFECTIVE AND CONTINUING ACTION AGAINST DISASTERS,

DRAWING PARTICULAR ATTENTION ONCE AGAIN TO THE EFFECTS OF DISASTERS
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ON THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN AFFLICTED COUNTRIES,

1. RECOMMENDS THAT AT ITS THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SHOULD ADOPT THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO ESTABLISH A UNITED NATIONS
VOLUNTARY DISASTER FUND, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH WILL BE TO PROVIDE
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND TO FINANCE THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION
ACTIVITIES OF THE CO-ORDINATOR'S OFFICE IN THE PREVENTION OF,
AND PREPARATION FOR MEETING NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE COUNTRIES
AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS;

2. INVITES GOVERNMENTS OF STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS
AND/OR MEMBERS OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO MAKE VOLUNTARY CON-
TRIBUTIONS TO THIS FUND IN ORDER TO PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION OF EFFECTIVE,

SIGNIFICANT AND CONTINUING ACTION BY THE CO-ORDINATOR'S OFFICE TO

HELP COUNTRIES STRICKEN BY NATURAL DISASTERS;

3. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND, THROUGH HIM, THE CO-ORDINATOR, TO UNDERTAKE TO PROMOTE THIS VOLUNTARY FUND AMONG STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND/OR MEMBERS OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. UNQUOTEDALE

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